

Message Text

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56

ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 CIAE-00 CU-04 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 AF-08

ARA-10 EA-09 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OIC-02 L-03 PA-02

PRS-01 ABF-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /099 R

DRAFTED BY IO/UNESCO:WPOBRIEN:LL

APPROVED BY IO/UNESCO:RCHEATER

AF/I:JDWHITING

EA/RA:LMCNUTT

EUR:DGOOTT

IO/ML:WPKRIEBEL

IO/UNP:RPECK

NEA/IAI:WSMITH (DRAFT)

ADVISORY COUNCIL:RGARVEY

NEA/ARN:MDRAPER

----- 031414

R 281701Z AUG 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY AMMAN

USINT BAGHDAD

AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

AMEMBASSY BERN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

AMEMBASSY RABAT

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AMEMBASSY SOFIA

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
INFO AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS

UNCLAS STATE 214411

NESCO

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS:AORG, OCON, UNESCO

SUBJECT:U.S. ELECTION TO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE

1. SUMMARY: SIGNATORIES TO CONVENTION FOR PROTECTION OF WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE WILL HOLD FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY NOVEMBER 26, 1976, AT 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF UNESCO IN NAIROBI TO ELECT 15 STATES TO WORLD HERITAGE COMMITTEE (WHC). ADDRESSEES AT THEIR DISCRETION MAY INFORM HOST GOVERNMENTS OF U.S. INTENTION TO SEEK ELECTION TO WHC
END SUMMARY.

2. CONVENTION FOR PROTECTION OF THE WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE, FIRST PROPOSED BY UNITED STATES IN 1971 AND RATIFIED BY IT ON DECEMBER 7, 1973, AIMS AT PRESERVING WORLD CULTURAL AND NATURAL HERITAGE BY REQUIRING GOVERNMENT TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION TO RESTORE, PRESERVE, AND PROTECT WITHIN THEIR OWN TERRITORIES CULTURAL SITES AND NATURAL SITES AND NATURAL AREAS WHICH MAY HAVE UNIVERSAL SIGNIFICANCE TO MANKIND. TO DATE, IN ADDITION TO U.S., 24 MEMBER STATES OF UNESCO (HOST GOVERNMENTS OF ADDRESSEE POSTS) HAVE RATIFIED CONVENTION, NOW IN FORCE FOR ALL SIGNATORIES.

3. CONVENTION CALLS FOR CREATION OF A WHC TO ADMINISTER A WORLD HERITAGE FUND AND TO MAINTAIN A WORLD HERITAGE LIST OF CULTURAL AND NATURAL PROPERTIES CONSIDERED OF OUTSTANDING UNIVERSAL VALUE AS WELL AS A LIST OF WORLD HERITAGE IN DANGER. A SECRETARIAT FOR WHC APPOINTED BY DIRECTOR-
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GENERAL WILL BE SET UP IN UNESCO AND HEADED BY AN INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED EXPERT IN THIS FIELD.

4. ON NOVEMBER 26, 1976, DURING THE 19TH GENERAL CONFERENCE, SIGNATORIES WILL HOLD THEIR FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO ELECT 15 MEMBER STATES TO WHC. TWO STATES -- CANADA AND EGYPT -- HAVE ALREADY REQUESTED U.S. SUPPORT FOR ELECTION TO COMMITTEE, AND A THIRD -- AUSTRALIA -- HAS MADE INQUIRY

CONCERNING ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION TO WHC. NONCOMMITAL
REPLIES WERE MADE TO BOTH CANADIAN AND EGYPTIAN REQUESTS.
FYI: IT IS U.S. PRACTICE TO RESERVE ITS POSITION ON
ELECTIONS TO UN BODIES UNTIL VIEWS OF REGIONAL GROUPS ARE
KNOWN. END FYI.

5. FOR ITS PART, U.S. PLANS TO SEEK ELECTION TO WHC, AND
ACTION POSTS AT THEIR DISCRETION MAY INFORM HOST GOVERN-
MENTS OF U.S. INTENTION. IN ANY DISCUSSION THIS MATTER,
POSTS MAY NOTE:

-- U.S. WAS AMONG FIRST TO RECOGNIZE NEED FOR INTERNATION-
AL CONVENTION TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE NATURAL AND CULTURAL
HERITAGE, FIRST TO PROPOSE SUCH AN INSTRUMENT, AND FIRST
TO RATIFY IT.

-- U.S. HAS BROAD EXPERIENCE IN RESTORATION/PROTECTION OF
HERITAGE, DATING FROM THE ESTABLISHMENT OF YELLOWSTONE
NATIONAL PARK IN 1872 AS FIRST STEP TAKEN TO PRESERVE
U.S. NATURAL HERITAGE AND ANTIQUITIES ACT OF 1906 WHICH
AUTHORIZED PRESIDENT TO RESERVE AREAS OF PUBLIC DOMAIN FOR
HISTORIC MONUMENTS PURPOSES. U.S. THEREFORE HAS MUCH TO
OFFER IN WAY OF GUIDANCE AND EXPERTISE AS WHC MEMBER.

-- U.S. WILL BE LARGEST CONTRIBUTOR TO WORLD HERITAGE FUND
(ONE PERCENT OF ITS UNESCO ASSESSMENT), ONCE CONGRESSIONAL
PROHIBITION AGAINST CONTRIBUTING TO UNESCO HAS BEEN LIFTED,
AND THUS HAS KEEN INTEREST IN WHC ACTIVITIES AS EVIDENCED
BY PAST SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL SAFEGUARD CAMPAIGNS
AMOUNTING TO SOME DOLS. 30 MILLION. FYI: U.S. NONPAYMENT
OF ITS 1975 AND 1976 CONTRIBUTIONS TO UNESCO DOES NOT
AFFECT U.S. ELIGIBILITY FOR ELECTION TO WHC. END FYI. EAGLEBURGER

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To: ACCRA
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